

THORNE

FRANKENSTEIN

FRANKENSTEIN

CRESTWOOD HOUSE









FRANKENSTEIN

by Ian Thorne



JEFFERSON PARISH LIBRARY
METAIRIE, LA.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS:

Forrest J. Ackerman: Cover, 28, 30, 39; from Universal Pictures — 9, 10-11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 24, 35, 36, 37, 38, 47; from Universal TV — 42, 43, 44, 45
Vincent Miranda, Jr.: from Hammer Films — 40, 41; from Universal Pictures — 2, 6, 12, 18, 20-21, 22-23, 25, 27, 31, 32-33

Copyright © 1977 by Crestwood House, Macmillan Publishing Company
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form
or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or
by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing
from the Publisher.

Macmillan Publishing Company

866 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10022

Collier Macmillan Canada, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

11 13 15 17 19 20 18 16 14 12

Reprinted 1982

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 76-051144.

ISBN 0-913-94066-6

Design—Doris Woods and Randal M. Heise.

FRANKENSTEIN



FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER

It was a movie like no other.

Before it started, there was a warning. This was to be the story of Frankenstein, a scientist who tried to play God by making a man. The story would be shocking. It would be horrifying. Timid people in the audience were invited to leave!

And then the story began in a graveyard . . .

Henry Frankenstein and Fritz, his helper, hid behind a tombstone. They made sure nobody was watching. Then they came out and dug up a coffin. The coffin and the body inside were carried away on a cart. Frankenstein said:

"He isn't dead. He's just waiting for a new life."

Frankenstein planned to bring the dead body back to life by means of scientific skill. But first, he needed a human brain.

He sent Fritz to a nearby medical school to steal one!

Fritz found two jars, each with a brain. One was labeled NORMAL BRAIN. Fritz grabbed it — and dropped it! The brain was ruined.

So Fritz had to take the other jar. The brain inside was that of a criminal, a murderer. No matter. Frankenstein had sent Fritz to get a brain and Fritz always obeyed.

Fritz brought the brain to his master's lab. It was in Castle Frankenstein, on a mountain in Germany. The young scientist put the brain into the body he had prepared. He and Fritz got the life-giving machine ready. It was a stormy night and the machine needed lightning to make it work.

Suddenly, there was a pounding at the castle door. Three people demanded to be let in.

One of them was Frankenstein's teacher from medical school, Professor Waldman. The second was Frankenstein's friend, Victor Moritz. And the third was Frankenstein's lovely bride-to-be, Elizabeth. They had learned of Frankenstein's strange experiments. They were afraid he was going mad.

Frankenstein said to them: "You will see whether I'm crazy or not!"

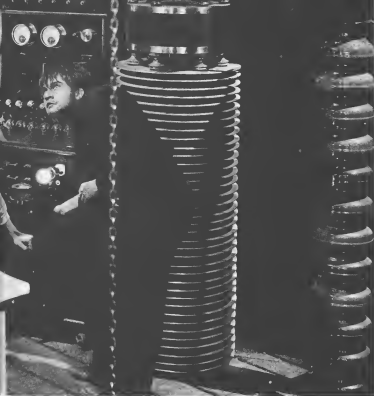
The friends of Henry Frankenstein plead with him to stop his experiments. From left to right: Professor Waldman (Edward van Sloan), Victor Moritz (John Boles), Fritz (Dwight Frye), Elizabeth (Mae Clarke), Frankenstein (Colin Clive).





The three visitors watched Frankenstein carry out his experiment. The body, on a table, was lifted high into a tower. There lightning struck it with a blinding flash. The life-giving machine did its work.

The body was lowered again to the lab. And Frankenstein came closer to look at it. Had the experiment worked?



Frankenstein and Fritz turn on the machine to animate the creature.

A finger — a hand — an arm moved.

"It's alive!" screamed Frankenstein. "Alive!"

Elizabeth, Victor and the Professor tried to calm him. Frankenstein said: "Now I know what it feels like to be God!"



In the days that followed, Frankenstein left the castle. He and Fritz took their newly made "man" to an old windmill where nobody would bother them.

Professor Waldman came to Frankenstein and begged him to lock up the creature. "He has a criminal brain," Waldman said. "He will prove dangerous."

Frankenstein only laughed. Waldman repeated his warning. "Evil will come of this. You have created a monster, and it will destroy you. Think of Elizabeth!"

"Elizabeth believes in me," said Frankenstein. "I must do further experiments."

As the two men argued, the sound of footsteps echoed in the old mill. The creature was coming. He entered the room. He was tall, and large with deep-sunk eyes. He, however, did obey Frankenstein's simple commands.

"He is like a child," the scientist said.

The monster changed. Fritz came running into the room, carrying a torch. The bright flames drove the creature crazy. He tried to escape. He refused to obey Frankenstein.

"He is as strong as ten men!" Frankenstein shouted. Finally, he and Fritz bound the creature with ropes and put him in the cellar.

The child-like brain of the creature dwelt within a powerful body.



Frankenstein and Waldman went away, but Fritz stayed. He hated the creature. He began to torment the monster with the torch. The monster came for him . . .

Upstairs in the mill, Frankenstein and Waldman heard a terrible scream. "It's Fritz!" cried the young scientist. He and Waldman dashed back to the cellar. But it was too late. The monster had killed for the first time.

Waldman and Frankenstein subdued the monster with a hypo. "It must be put to death," said the Professor.

Frankenstein saw his life-work spoiled. The shock was too much for him. He broke down. Elizabeth and Frankenstein's father took the young man away to help him recover.

Meanwhile, Waldman could not resist examining the monster before destroying him. As the old man bent over the creature — the creature awoke!

With one hard blow, the monster broke Waldman's neck. Then the creature ran away into the dark countryside.



Frankenstein and Waldman attempt to subdue the creature.



For many days, nothing was heard of the monster. Henry Frankenstein, nursed by Elizabeth, recovered his health. His experiments seemed like a bad dream that had passed. The young couple planned their wedding. The whole village was invited to share the happiness of the House of Frankenstein.

A poor woodsman lived in a hut by a nearby lake. He had a little daughter named Maria. "Play for awhile," Maria's father said. "Then we will go to the village and have a grand time at the wedding."

Maria went down to the lake shore to pick daisies. Suddenly, a huge figure loomed over her. "Who are you?" asked Maria. The person did not answer. "Play with me," said Maria.

It was the monster, come out of hiding. His mind was like that of a child. He smiled as Maria gave him flowers. Then he and the little girl had fun tossing the pretty daisies into the water.

They floated! That was fun. Pretty things were floating on the water.

But then all the daisies were gone. There were no more pretty things to toss in. But wait! The monster had a fine idea. He would toss in pretty Maria and she would float, too.



He came toward her, smiling . . .

Back at Castle Frankenstein, Henry and Elizabeth got ready for their wedding. Elizabeth was very moody.

"I am afraid," she said. "Why isn't Dr. Waldman at the wedding?"

Frankenstein said, "You are just nervous."

"Something is coming between us," she insisted.

At that moment, Victor burst in. "It's Dr. Waldman!" he said.

Frankenstein knew what had happened. He locked Elizabeth in her room for safety. Then he and the other men began to search the castle.

The thing they were afraid of had happened. The monster had returned to the place where he was "born."

As Elizabeth sat in her room, the monster came in through a window. She was very pretty, thought the monster. She was like Maria . . .

In another part of the castle, Frankenstein and Victor heard Elizabeth scream. They rushed to her room. They found her lying where the monster had dropped her before escaping.

But she was alive.

"Don't let it come here," she said.





Down in the village, people were dancing and singing. Suddenly they fell silent. The woodsman came walking down the street. He was carrying Maria.

He brought her to the village leader, the Burgomaster. "She's been murdered! Drowned!"

"Justice will be done," said the Burgomaster.

When Frankenstein heard the news, he went to the village. "I made the monster with my hands," he said. "With these hands I will destroy him."

He turned to Victor. "I leave Elizabeth in your care. Whatever happens."



A mob of villagers vow to destroy Maria's killer.

The villagers set out to search for the monster. Waving torches, they took police dogs and broke into groups. Frankenstein led a mob into the mountains.

Mist covered the cliffs. One searcher took his dogs into the rocks and the monster struck.

Frankenstein found the man lying broken on the ground. "Over there . . ." the man said.

"Come on!" said Frankenstein. "This way!"

Frankenstein rushed on ahead. Bearing his torch, he climbed over the rocks. He knew that his creature was there somewhere . . .

Suddenly, the monster rose up from behind a rock.

Frankenstein and his creation stared silently at each other. Then the monster advanced — staring, always staring at the man who had given him life.

Frankenstein realized, almost too late, that he was in great danger. He thrust the blazing torch at the monster. But the creature was no longer afraid of fire.



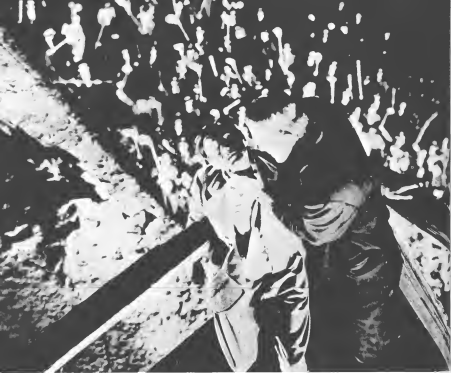
He came closer. He reached out. His arms closed about the struggling scientist.

Frankenstein shouted for help. The villagers heard his cries and came running.

"Turn the dogs loose!" said the Burgomaster.

Frankenstein lay on the ground, stunned by a blow from the monster. As the yelping dogs came closer, the monster picked up the body of his creator. He began to run to the old mill where Frankenstein had once hidden him away.





The villagers ran to the mill and began to batter its door. The monster peered down at them and they yelled with rage.

Frankenstein awoke and realized he was the monster's prisoner. He was not afraid, however. He had only one thought — to kill the evil thing he had made. He and the monster struggled on the balcony of the windmill. The horrified men of the village watched as the monster threw Frankenstein off the mill.

"He's alive!" somebody shouted, bending over the unconscious scientist.

"Take him to the village," ordered the Burgomaster.

Far above, the monster grinned down at the mob. No one was willing to go in and get him. Then one man had an idea.

"Burn the mill! Burn it down!"

Torches were thrown into the dead grass near the windmill's base. Strong winds caught the flames and blew them high.



The mob of villagers stood watching. The monster fled from the balcony as the flames spread. The walls of the mill were all on fire. The windmill arms burst into flame. Before long, the whole windmill was burning.

The monster, trapped inside, tried to side step falling timbers. Once more he was afraid of fire. It faced him at every turn. Get away! Get away! But he could not.

A large beam from the roof caved in. It pinned the monster to the floor and he began to scream.

Outside, the men stood quietly and watched the mill burn to the ground. Then they went home to the village.

At the castle, Elizabeth and the young scientist's father gave Frankenstein gentle care. He was put to bed. His friends knew that Henry Frankenstein would recover. The nightmare of Frankenstein's monster was over . . .

And so the great movie ended.

The monster had died in the flames. But had he, really? Movie audiences loved the thrills of Frankenstein. And so the monster never died.

He is alive and well today!





Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of Frankenstein.

Frankenstein was created by a woman.

The original story, *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*, was written by Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin in 1816 and published two years later. When Mary began the story, she was only 18 years old.

It was a rainy, gloomy summer, that of 1816. Mary was staying at a Swiss villa on Lake Geneva. Her friends were the poets Percy Bysshe Shelley (whom she later married) and Lord Byron, Mary's step-sister Claire Clairmont, and Byron's friend, Dr. John Polidari.

The friends were supposed to have been reading ghost stories one stormy night. Byron suggested that each of them write a ghost story. Mary's original tale, written over a period of months, was *Frankenstein*.

Percy Shelley helped his wife improve the final manuscript. At first, the author had trouble finding a publisher. Three turned it down. But when it finally appeared in print, it became a best seller. No one knew Mary had written it. Her name did not appear on the first edition. Most readers thought the author was Shelley.

In 1831 it became known that Mary was the author. The book was published in many languages. Plays were written based upon it. Mary Shelley wrote other books. But *Frankenstein* is the only one that gained lasting fame.



The only surviving picture from Edison's Frankenstein shows a shaggy monster.

The first movie based on Frankenstein was a silent film made in 1910. It was produced by the great Thomas Alva Edison and featured Charles Ogle as the monster.

Unfortunately, all prints of this old movie seem to have disappeared. Reviewers of the time praised it. They said the creation of the monster in a vat of blazing chemicals was unforgettable.

Edison's Frankenstein ends with the young scientist sorry about his desire to "play God." Frankenstein turns to Elizabeth, his true love. And the monster disappears into thin air!

A second version, "Life Without Soul," was made in New York in 1915. But it was not until 1931 that Frankenstein gained lasting fame as a movie.

Universal Pictures had scored a great success with Dracula, starring Bela Lugosi. They wanted to do another horror film right away — and chose Frankenstein. Lugosi was to have played the monster. But he refused to do a role without speaking.

The studio turned to an unknown English-born actor named William Henry Pratt. His stage name was Boris Karloff. He played the monster perfectly. Without saying a word, he made the creature both horrifying and sad.

Boris Karloff (1887-1969) became the king of horror films. He played not only Frankenstein's monster, but also the Mummy, Dr. Fu Manchu, and assorted mad scientists. Late in his career, he hosted a TV horror show.



The Bride of Frankenstein was played by Elsa Lanchester. Dr. Praetorius was portrayed by the wonderful Ernest Thesiger.



Universal's *Frankenstein* starred Colin Clive as the scientist. Still, the real star was Boris Karloff. The movie was a box-office smash.

In 1935, Karloff starred in *Bride of Frankenstein*. Taking a hint from Mary Shelley's original story, *Frankenstein and the mad Dr. Praetorius* set out to create a mate for the monster. (In this movie he had not burned up in the mill after all. He fell into an underground cistern and survived.)

The Bride, played by Elsa Lanchester, is put together and given life. She looks at her intended mate and screams with terror.

Poor monster! Mad with sorrow, he blows up the



laboratory. Once again, he seems to have been destroyed.

After this second movie, nearly everyone referred to the monster himself as "Frankenstein." The name became part of the language. A Frankenstein was a thing that turned on its creator and destroyed him.

Son of Frankenstein continued the story of the monster in 1939. Like the first two films, it was well-made and very scary. Karloff starred, together with Basil Rathbone as the son of the late Henry Frankenstein.

Baron Wolf von Frankenstein comes to the village of his ancestors. It is 25 years since the monster disappeared.

A mad shepherd named Ygor (played by Lugosi) tells Frankenstein the monster is not dead. Ygor leads the Baron to the depths of the castle. There lies the monster, in a coma.

"Cannot die," says Ygor. "Your father make him live for always!"

The Baron cannot resist giving back full life to the monster. It walks again, it kills again, and it dies again, kicked into a pit of boiling sulfur by the sturdy Baron.



The son of Frankenstein (Basil Rathbone, left) re-animates the monster as his butler (Edgar Norton) assists. At right is Bela Lugosi, playing Ygor.



Lon Chaney, Jr. as the monster in Ghost of Frankenstein.

Karloff was now tired of the monster role, which had made him a star. Also, he felt that scriptwriters were losing sight of the basic "childlike" nature of the creature. He was becoming evil rather than misunderstood.

Ghost of Frankenstein, released in 1942, saw Lon Chaney, Jr. playing the monster. The monster, pried out of a block of solid sulfur, is given a new brain. The brain is that of Ygor! The monster becomes a raging maniac and seems to die in the movie's flaming ending.

The monster gave the Wolf-Man a hard time.



In 1943, movie-goers were given two monsters for the price of one in *Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man*. Bela Lugosi played the monster while Lon Chaney, Jr. played the Wolf Man. This time, the creature seemed to drown when villagers blew up the dam.

The immortal monster was back the following year in *House of Frankenstein*. This time, he was played by cowboy actor Glenn Strange. The movie also featured Dracula, the Wolf Man, and a mad scientist played by Karloff himself.

Glenn Strange played the creature in House of Frankenstein. A closeup of Strange appears on page 2. The actor later played a friendly bartender on the Gunsmoke TV series.



House of Dracula (1945) featured the monster in a fairly minor role. Once again, Glenn Strange was the creature.

The last of the Universal movies about Frankenstein was the most unusual. Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1948) blended humor and horror. It was a classic film comedy.

Another comedy about the monster, Young Frankenstein, was made by Mel Brooks in 1974. It was a funny film too, and was the story of the Frankenstein's son.

Glenn Strange menaces Lou Costello (left) and Bud Abbott.





Herman Munster was played by Fred Gwynne.

The original Frankenstein monster disappeared from movie theaters after 1948. But he was not forgotten. Television brought back the old movies. A whole new generation of children saw Frankenstein and shivered. But the children also loved the monster. They wrote letters to Karloff, who said:

"Children seemed to understand that he was the victim of something beyond his control. He was bewildered and afraid."

A comedy TV series called "The Munsters" came out in 1964 and was a great hit. Herman Munster, the lovable father of the series, looked almost exactly like Frankenstein's monster.



Peter Cushing as Dr. Frankenstein.

Frankenstein returned to movie screens in 1957. Two films, one good and one awful, appeared that year. The bad one was, "I was a Teenage Frankenstein," made in Hollywood. The good one was, "Curse of Frankenstein," made in England by Hammer Films.

Hammer's Frankenstein was the first full-color version of the story. The scientist was played by Peter Cushing. The monster was portrayed by Christopher Lee. Curse of Frankenstein was vivid, chilling, and very gory. It was a huge success. Hammer made many other films with a Frankenstein theme. But none were up to the standard of their first effort.

Christopher Lee's monster proved that they just don't make them now the way they used to.





Leonard Whiting, as Frankenstein, prepares to give life to the creature in the 1974 TV version of the true story.

If you read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, you are in for a surprise. Her story is quite a bit different from that of most of the movies about the man-made monster. The only film that even came close to telling Mary's story was a television special made in 1974, *Frankenstein: The True Story*.

Mary's book begins with the strange tale of a sea captain. Sailing in Arctic seas amid the ice, the captain sees a strange figure. It is a very tall man driving a dog sled over the packed ice.

Shortly afterward, the captain sees a second sled and driver. This man is nearly dead from exposure. The captain takes him on board. All this man can think about is following the first sled.

The rescued man is a scientist, Victor Frankenstein. The figure he was following is the monster.

Frankenstein tells his awful story. He was a student of chemistry and anatomy. He dreamed of creating a living man and put together a huge body from human parts.



Unlike Mary Shelley's original, the creature (portrayed by Michael Sarrazin) was not ugly when first animated. (1974 TV version).

Frankenstein's creation came to life under his hands. But the scientist was disgusted with the ugliness of the monster. He left him alone and went to bed. The monster awakened him and Frankenstein ran away in fear.

The monster crept away into the forest. He was lonely and frightened, and was chased by villagers. He began to live in a kind of cave near the hut of a blind old man and his two grown children. Weeks passed. The monster, looking for human kindness, did secret good deeds for the cottage people. One day, he even talked to the blind man and was overjoyed not to be rejected.

The creature is a social success at the opera in the 1974 TV version.





The creature begins to lose his handsome looks. But he still longs for acceptance and love. Above action is from the 1974 TV version.

But soon the old man's children returned. They drove away the hideous being. The monster was overcome with anger and sadness. He burned down the cottage and vowed revenge on the human race that hated him so.

A small boy met the monster in the woods. Thinking to make the boy his friend, the monster grabbed him. "Let me go!" screamed the boy. "I will tell my papa, Monsieur Frankenstein! He will punish you!"

Hearing the name of his creator, the monster went wild. He strangled the boy who was William, the younger brother of Victor Frankenstein.

A servant girl was blamed for the murder and hanged. But the scientist knew that his monster was the real killer. He set out to put his creation to death with his own hands.

Instead, it was the monster who had revenge on Frankenstein. The creature murdered the scientist's dearest friend, Clerval. Then he strangled Frankenstein's bride, Elizabeth.

The fiendish laugh of the monster echoed through the Swiss Alps. Frankenstein set out to follow and destroy him.

The hunter and the monster he followed went northward. For months, Frankenstein followed the monster. They went into Russia, to the northernmost land in Europe.

The monster stole a dog sled and went northward onto the ice. Frankenstein followed . . . only to be picked up by the ship.

The scientist, worn out by his journey, sank into a coma that leads to death. Somehow, the monster knew this and came to the ship.

"Farewell, Frankenstein!" said the monster. "My spirit will sleep in peace." The creature leaped out of the cabin window into the blackness of the Arctic Ocean . . .

To his death? Of course not. Frankenstein's monster will live on and on as long as people like a good horror story.

Frankenstein's immortal monster.



MONSTERS



I SUGGEST
YOU READ ABOUT
MY FRIENDS!

**THE BLOB
DRACULA
GODZILLA
KING KONG
THE MUMMY
FRANKENSTEIN
MAD SCIENTISTS
THE WOLF MAN
THE DEADLY MANTIS
THE INVISIBLE MAN
IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
FRANKENSTEIN MEETS WOLFMAN
THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE
CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON**

CRESTWOOD HOUSE

Write Us for a Complete Catalog



MONSTERS

from



CRESTWOOD HOUSE

THE INVISIBLE MAN

THE DEADLY MANTIS

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS WOLFMAN

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

THE WOLF MAN

MAD SCIENTISTS

THE MUMMY

FRANKENSTEIN

GODZILLA

KING KONG

THE BLOB

DRACULA

